

Spotlight





on Student Assessment and Accountability

October 29, 2015

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Key:  supports and accommodations information

 information Tech Coordinators also need to know

M-STEP State Results Reset the Academic Bar of Higher Expectations for Michigan Students

On Tuesday, October 27th, the Michigan Department of Education publicly released the Spring 2015 Statewide M-STEP results. The results reset the bar on learning and provide a more accurate and real picture of where Michigan students are and where they need to go to be a top-performing state in the next 10 years.

Statewide student scores, while higher than expected, were lower than prior MEAP test scores. M-STEP is the first test to measure Michigan's higher English language arts and mathematics learning standards approved by the State Board of Education in 2010.

In the [press release](http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6526_6551-368037--,00.html) (http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6526_6551-368037--,00.html), State Superintendent of Education Brian Whiston said, "In order to prepare our students for the careers of the 21st Century and to vault Michigan to become a Top Ten education state in 10 years, we need high standards and rigorous assessments." Whiston added, "This year's results set the new baseline from which to build."

"Wherever we set the achievement bar, the students will jump over it," Whiston said. "It's about expectations. As a state, we need to raise the expectations."

Spring 2015 State Assessment Results by Percent Proficient

Grade	ELA	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
3	50	49	NA	NA
4	47	41	12	NA
5	49	33	NA	22
6	45	33	NA	NA
7	49	33	23	NA
8	48	32	NA	30
11	49	28	29	44

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Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

Sequence of Reports

Given the transitional nature of this past year's assessments and the new nature of this year's data and reports, information will be released in a staggered sequence. Data and reports will be rolled out in the following sequence as soon as they become available. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience while we continue to transition!

- Statewide aggregates and student data file
- Individual Student Reports
- Parent Reports and Student Labels
- Other Student Level Reports
- School and district aggregates, embargoed
- School and district aggregates publicly released on www.mischooldata.org
- Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs)

Spring 2015 Performance Levels and Scale Score Ranges

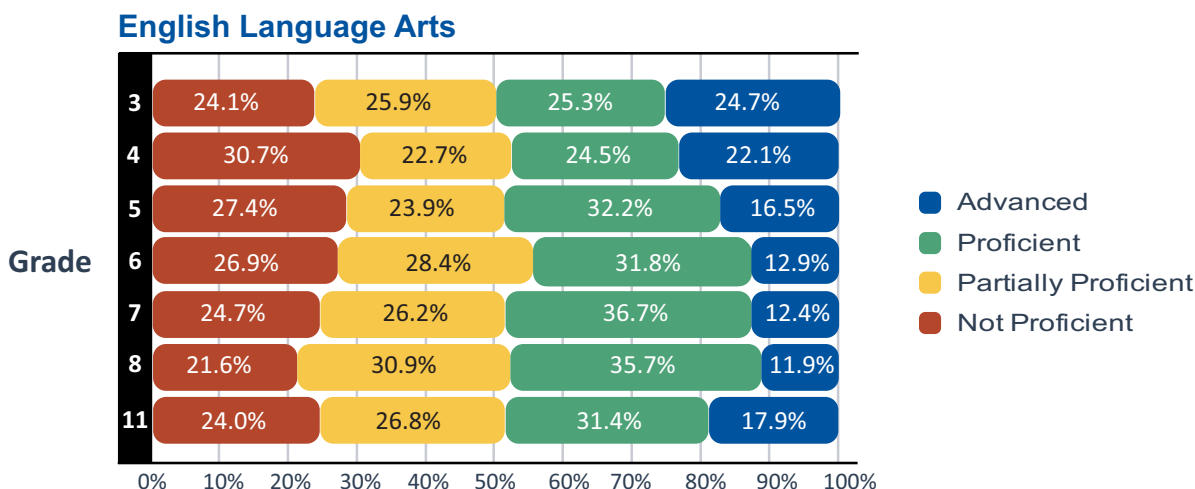
Beginning with the Spring 2015 M-STEP administration, the performance levels (PL) are in ascending order:

- Level 1 – Not Proficient
- Level 2 – Partially Proficient
- Level 3 – Proficient
- Level 4 – Advanced

The [Performance Level descriptors](#) have been posted on the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) in the **Reporting** section. You can access the [Spring 2015 M-STEP Performance Level Scale Score Ranges](#) document in the same location..

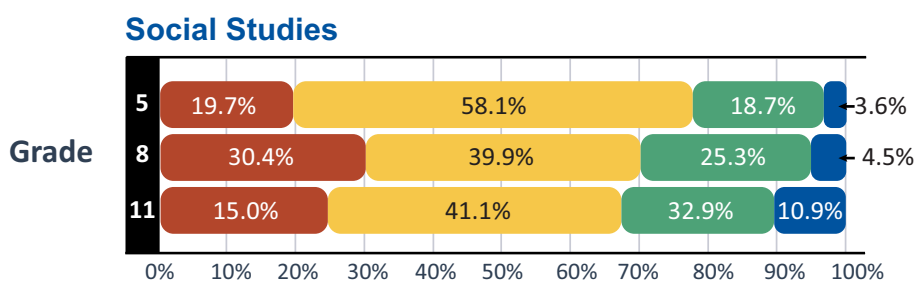
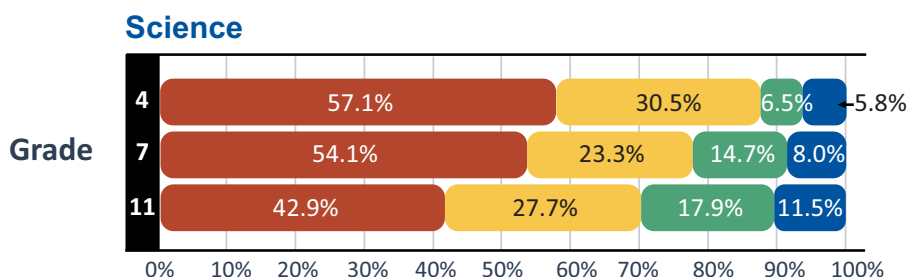
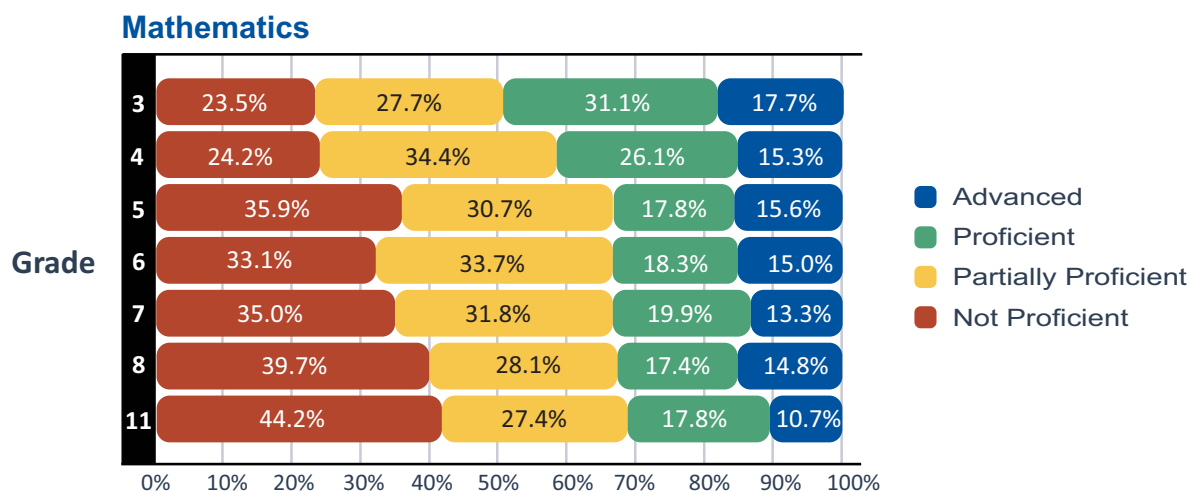
The Spring 2015 statewide results by performance level category appear below and on the following page.

Spring 2015 Statewide M-STEP Results Percent of Students by Performance Category



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District and School Access to Secure Site Needs to be Reviewed

Have you checked lately to see who has access to your district or school student assessment data in the Secure Site? Districts and schools are responsible for managing the access of users in the Secure Site and when a user no longer needs access to the data, the user's account should be disabled.

If you are a District Administrator, School Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator level user in the Secure Site, part of your role is to disable user access. This can be done by logging on to the Secure Site, click on Manage Current Access from the Security menu, and click Search on the manage user Profiles page. This will give you a full list of all users for the district or school that you are responsible to maintain. You can filter by Profile Status of Enabled or Disabled.

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You can view details of the access by clicking on the Update Profile link for the user or you can simply select the user by placing a check mark in the far left-hand column and click on the Disable button at the bottom right.

A District Administrator level user cannot disable another district administrator. To disable a District Administrator level user the district superintendent or the user must email baa@michigan.gov from their email address and request the user be disabled.

If you are a user who has left a school or district and still has access to the information on the Secure Site for the district or school, you can email baa@michigan.gov and request to be removed.

KEA Fall Checkpoint Deadline October 31, 2015

The deadline for submitting checkpoints for the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) is midnight on October 31, 2015. No student scores or documentation can be added to the Fall checkpoint that reflects the student's entry status in the TS Gold system after that date. **Educators finalizing their work this week should focus on entering student scores instead of uploading documentation.** More information about checkpoints can be found in the **Guide for Administrators: Checkpoints** guide, which can be found by logging into the TS Gold site, going to the **Checkpoints** tab, and selecting the guide from the right hand side of the page.

Districts may continue to use the TS Gold tool and track student progress after the October 31, 2015 deadline; however, it will not be reflected in the fall data collection. More information about the continued use of the tool for local school/district purposes will be available the week of November 2, 2015.

For questions about finalizing KEA data for the Fall checkpoint, please e-mail MiKEA@teachingstrategies.com or call 877-560-8378 and select Option 6.

Spring 2016 MME Test Administration Webcast

For up-to-date information on the Spring 2016 MME test administration, join MDE, College Board, and ACT staff for a full-day live training presentation on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This streamed presentation, which will be broadcast from Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, will cover an overview of the MME, administration of the M-STEP, WorkKeys, SAT, and PSAT 8/9 and 10, and a brief discussion of the Secure Site and Test Accommodations. The webcast will be [streamed live via MI Streamnet](http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3504/michigan-merit-examination-mme-administration) (<http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3504/michigan-merit-examination-mme-administration>). An email address will be provided for viewers to submit questions on the day of the event. Questions will be answered at the end of the day, if time permits, and posted in the Recently Asked Questions section of the Spotlight one week after broadcast.

Can't make the live webcast? Don't worry! The presentation will be posted in chapters after the live training in approximately 1-2 business days on the MI Streamnet site. Look for details in the November 5th Spotlight on how to access the videos on demand.

MME Eligibility

The Spring 2016 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) has three components: the SAT with Essay, the ACT WorkKeys, and the M-STEP Science and Social Studies tests.

Students taking the Spring 2016 MME must take all three components. For determination of

- who is **required** to take the MME,
- who is **eligible, but not required**, to take the MME,
- which students are **NOT eligible** to take the MME,

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please see the MME eligibility document [Who Must/Can Take the Spring 2016 MME?](#) located on the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme) in the **Current Assessment Information** section.

SAT/PSAT Clarification of Accommodations Requests

All schools participating in the Spring 2016 state-sponsored SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 will be required to submit accommodations requests via the [College Board SSD Online system](https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online) (<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online>) unless the student was previously approved for accommodations when they participated in a prior SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, or Advanced Placement test. For schools with students that participated in the fall, this will be the same process you followed for PSAT/NMSQT and SAT. **However, for schools who may have participated in the Fall PSAT 8/9, this is a change.** The reason for the change is to simplify the registration and ordering process, by allowing the same consistent process across all three assessments through the MDE Secure Site and the College Board's SSD Online system for the state-sponsored tests. For SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for Spring 2016, this means the accommodations request and Pre-ID processes will be the same regardless of the test for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. College Board will use both systems to register students and determine test material orders. While this may create extra work in this first year due to the 9th grade accommodation requests, the benefit will be that once a student is approved for an accommodation as a 9th grader, there will be no need to apply again for them in the 10th or 11th grades unless their accommodation needs change.

To get started, any schools with a College Board attending institution (AI) code may begin requesting accommodations now. For schools that do not yet have an AI code from College Board, you will need to wait until you receive your AI Code from College Board in mid-December. Accommodation requests should be

made in the College Board SSD Online by February 16, 2016 for all three assessments – SAT for 11th grade students, PSAT 10 for 10th grade students, and PSAT 8/9 for 9th grade students. Other helpful hints:

- If you don't already have access to the College Board SSD Online system, the SSD Coordinator should [request access](https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online/get-access) (<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online/get-access>).
- Remember there are no set documentation requirements. We provide guidelines for common documentation that we find useful to help us learn about the students' needs. However, any documentation that is provided will be reviewed. Send the documentation that was used to make the determination even if out-of-date, with any current information about the student. **Please note that schools are NOT required to have students reevaluated to support any documentation request.**
- For more information, please see the materials and recording from the Spring 2016 Accommodations webinar posted on our [website](http://www.collegeboard.org/michigan) (www.collegeboard.org/michigan). Scroll down to the **Services for Students with Disabilities** section. More information regarding accommodations will be shared during the MME Webcast November 4, 2015, as well as in the accommodations training webinar that will be available January 13, 2016.

Making Accessibility Decisions for Assessment

As schools, intervention teams, and IEP teams make decisions regarding student supports and accommodations for use with instruction and assessment, it is important to be intentional and careful to ensure the supports meet a student need. The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) released a brief this past summer that provides guidance on the selection of student supports

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and accommodations. It outlines the following important steps in the process:

1. Learn about the assessment accessibility tools available
2. Consider the individual needs of students for the tasks in the assessment
3. Select and document appropriate accessibility features and accommodations for students
4. Make sure students have sufficient opportunity to practice using selected tools before the assessment
5. Administer the assessment with appropriate accessibility features and accommodations
6. Gather feedback from the students on the use of the tools
7. Make needed changes to a student's plan, based on the student's feedback and performance

It is important to remember that student supports and accommodations are intended to mirror supports provided during instruction to meet a specific student need. These supports should help provide equal access to the assessment for students, and not to provide an advantage relative to outcomes. It is also important to remember that tools and supports used by a student for a single event (such as an annual assessment) that are not used on a regular basis by the student to access resources and information can actually put the students at a disadvantage.

Please keep these good practices in mind as the MDE Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) begins to release related information for state assessments in the coming weeks.

Click on the link to see the full [NCEO Brief](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/briefs/brief11/NCEOBrief11.pdf) (<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/briefs/brief11/NCEOBrief11.pdf>).

WIDA Webinars and Sample Item Information

WIDA will conduct an **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Q & A and Assessment Preparation Webinar** on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

Districts and schools preparing to administer the new WIDA annual summative English language proficiency assessment for English Learners (ELs)—the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0—this spring, should attend the November 10 Q & A webinar if they have remaining questions about coordination and administration of either the online or paper/pencil assessment, **after** reviewing the pre-recorded webinars listed below and on the following page. No registration is necessary for this event.

After you access the [November 10 webinar](https://wida.webex.com/wida/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee21ef7b127c37074dd79b1ace8c1498e) (<https://wida.webex.com/wida/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee21ef7b127c37074dd79b1ace8c1498e>), follow the directions below:

Meeting Audio

Audio for the webinar is available through your phone or your computer.

To call in using your phone:

1. Select “I Will Call In” on your computer screen
2. Call US Toll Number: 1-415-655-0003
3. Follow the prompts from the operator (Access Code: 663 238 158)
4. “Connected to Audio” will turn green on your computer screen when you’re connected

To connect to audio through your computer:

1. Ensure your speakers are enabled and the volume is at an audible level
2. Select “Call Using Computer”
3. “Connected to Audio” will turn green when you’re connected

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As noted, district/school testing coordinators, test administrators, and technology coordinators should review following pre-recorded webinars **before November 10, 2015**.

- [Initial Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar](https://vimeo.com/127198407) (<https://vimeo.com/127198407>) and [Q & A Document](https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/WIDA%20Tech%20Coordinator%20Q%20and%20A.pdf) (<https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/WIDA%20Tech%20Coordinator%20Q%20and%20A.pdf>)
- [Overview of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar*](https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/ACCESS2.0OverviewWebinar052115/presentation.html) (<https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/ACCESS2.0OverviewWebinar052115/presentation.html>)
- [Test Coordinator Overview Webinar*](#)
- [Test Administrator Overview Webinar*](#)

*Please note that **some** information within these webinars related to the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) will not be relevant for Michigan. Please pay attention to the Spotlight for future information related to Pre-ID, material ordering, and student/test session management.

Schools that will be administering the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 should also take advantage of the currently available sample items and test practice:

- [Online Sample Items for the Public](https://wbte.drccdirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida) (<https://wbte.drccdirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida>) – **requires Chrome**
- [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Sample Items for the Public Instructions](https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/ACCESSforELLs20SIPInstructions.pdf) (<https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/ACCESSforELLs20SIPInstructions.pdf>)
- [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Sample Items for the Public Screenshots](https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/ACCESSforELLs20SIPScreenshots.pdf) (<https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/ACCESSforELLs20SIPScreenshots.pdf>)
- [Test Practice](https://wbte.drccdirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida) (<https://wbte.drccdirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida>) – **for students, requires Chrome**

Although more materials may be available through WIDA's website, some of the information may not be applicable to Michigan processes. Therefore, the Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) is requesting districts only review information as it is announced through the Spotlight.

Access to Assessment Management System for WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Testing

If you will be involved in the online administration of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs in spring 2016, you may need access to the Assessment Management System (AMS) that will be used to download the Testing Site Manager (TSM) software and to manage students and test sessions. It is important to note that the TSM software for WIDA is different from the TSM software for M-STEP and MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) test administrations.

District Administrator, School Administrator and Nonpublic School Administrator level users of the Secure Site were given access to the AMS earlier this week, and were sent an email from the Division of Accountability Services instructing them that they will be responsible for creating new users as needed **for the WIDA administration** directly in the AMS. No additional users will be pulled from the Secure Site and access will NOT be created through the Secure Site **for WIDA** as it is for M-STEP and MI-Access FI.

If you did not receive an email from Data Recognition Corp (DRC) with a login and password for the AMS and you need access to the AMS for the Spring 2016 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, you will need to contact the District Administrator, School Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator level user of the Secure Site for access. This person is usually, but not always, the district or school assessment coordinator. If you are having trouble identifying the District Administrator, School Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator level user, please contact us at 877-560-8378 and select option 3 or email baa@michigan.gov and provide the name of the ISD.

SAT Corner

Information on SAT™, PSAT 8/9™, and PSAT10™ provided by the College Board

Nonpublic Schools: Confirm Your Intent to Test by November 6, 2015

The primary contact at every nonpublic school in Michigan should have received an email with information about informing the College Board of your intent to test in Spring 2016 with SAT, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9. You can choose to participate in any one, two, or all three of the following assessments: SAT, PSAT 8/9, and/or PSAT 10. However, **if you are planning on administering SAT, please remember you must participate in all three components of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME): SAT with Essay, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP Science and Social Studies.**

To confirm your intent to test, please call (866) 870-3127 (select Option 1) or email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org to confirm. You will need to provide your state-assigned district and building codes, the name of your school, and the names of the assessments you wish to administer. **If we don't hear from you by 11:59 PM on November 6, 2015, you will not be able to participate in the state-sponsored Spring 2016 College Board assessments.**

Remember to Update EEM by November 13, 2015

For the state-sponsored SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 administrations in spring 2016, College Board will pull contact information from the Educational Entity Master (EEM) to drive the test center setup, establishment processes, and other communications. All schools participating must identify building-level staff members for each of the following positions:

- SAT Test Coordinator
- SAT Backup Test Coordinator
- SAT Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator (SSD)
- PSAT 10 Test Coordinator
- PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator
- PSAT Backup Coordinator

An individual may serve in more than one role. For example, a building can have one staff member serve as the SAT Test Coordinator (TC), and that person may also serve as the TC for PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10. The same person cannot serve as the TC and the Back-Up TC. Additionally, a school may have more than one SSD Coordinator; however a primary contact must be identified and included in EEM.

For schools that tested with PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT in Fall 2015 outside of the state-sponsored contract, your district-authorized EEM user must update EEM for spring testing. For fall testing, schools included contact information in College Board's Test Ordering System; however this information will NOT transfer to EEM. In order to receive communications about Spring 2016 testing, please update the information in EEM by **11:59 PM on November 13, 2015.**

The PSAT/NMSQT Test Coordinator from the fall testing window may be identified as the SAT Test Coordinator, the PSAT 10 Test Coordinator, or both – just update the EEM. **Make sure that the EEM has contact information for all of the roles identified above.**

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If your school or district did not participate in fall testing, then simply add a staff member and contact information for each of the SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 coordinator roles into the EEM. There is no need to enter the information into the College Board's Test Ordering System at this time.

For more information regarding EEM, please see the [September 2 Memorandum on Preparing for Spring 2016 Assessments](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Preparing_for_Spring_2016_Assessments_499712_7.pdf) (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Preparing_for_Spring_2016_Assessments_499712_7.pdf).

Implementation Workshops

Did you miss out on attending one of our in-person implementation workshops? Don't worry. We will be posting a recorded version of the workshop and materials the week of November 9, 2015 to the College Board Michigan website.

Along with news in Spotlight, the College Board will continue to update information about the spring implementation on our [Michigan website](http://www.collegeboard.org/michigan) (www.collegeboard.org/michigan).

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

KEA

- **October 31, 2015:** Deadline for submitting student scores for the fall checkpoint for the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA).

MME

- **November 4, 2015:** MME Test Administration Webcast from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

Nonpublic Schools

- **November 6, 2015:** Deadline for nonpublic schools to contact College Board with intent to administer Spring 2016 MME, PSAT 8/9, and/or PSAT 10.

WIDA

- **November 6, 2015:** Deadline for authorized district users to access the WIDA AMAO results for the 2013–14 school year through the [Secure Site](https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/Login.aspx) (<https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/Login.aspx>).

Districts may also submit appeals during this time using the functionality in the Secure Site. For more information and resources, please visit the [AMAo web page](http://www.michigan.gov/amao) (www.michigan.gov/amao).

November

WIDA

- **November 10, 2015:** ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Q & A and Assessment Preparation Webinar from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

SAT/PSAT

- **November 13, 2015, 11:59 PM:** Deadline to enter SAT and PSAT Coordinators in the EEM

Online Waiver Requests

- **November 20, 2015:** Deadline for districts to submit online waiver request(s) for their school(s) to administer the paper/pencil version of M-STEP, MI-Access FI, or WIDA ACCESS 2.0 assessments.
- Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html), (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html)

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.